

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-6, 16-21 and 27-37 were presented for examination. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21 and 32-35. Applicant also wishes to thank the examiner for his taking the time to discuss this application on November 5, 2003. In the outstanding office action claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1, 3-4 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,641 issued in the name of Zquris. Claims 1-5, 30, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,603,093 issued in the name of Edwards. Claims 16-20, 27-29 and 31 were rejected variously under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the following references: Zquris, Edwards, U.S. Patent No. 5,227,260 issued in the name of Rose, U.S. Patent No. 5,618,641 issued in the name of Arias, U.S. Patent No. 5,389,465 issued in the name of Hooke and U.S. Patent No. 6,376,126 issued in the name of Faust.

In the instant amendment claims 1, 16 and 27 have been cancelled thereby rendering any rejections with regard to the same as being moot.

Applicant has also amended the specification on page 7, lines 20-24 in order to correct a typographical error, which in turn addresses the drawing issues raised in the outstanding office action. More particularly, "47" on line 22 was changed to --41-- in order to make the specification consistent with the drawings. No new matter has been added.

Claims 21 and 32, which have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim and are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 17-20, 28-31 and 33-37 either depend from or have been amended to depend from claims 21 and 32 (i.e., directly or indirectly). Accordingly, claims 2-5, 17-20, 28-31 and 33-37 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claims 21 and 32.

In addition, applicants have also added new claims 38-46 to more particularly point out aspects of the present application. The new claims have been carefully written to avoid

any questions under 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for new claims 38-46 is at least found on page 8, lines 23-33 and page 9, lines 1-3 as well as Figures 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the application as filed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in a condition for examination. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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